

What is Claimed Is:

1. A computer-implemented system for preventing unauthorized access to products in a retail system, comprising:

an order-processing system for receiving a purchase order from a customer, and

- 5 a tracking system for tracking a product ordered by the customer to prevent unauthorized access to the product.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the retail system includes multiple retail facilities for enabling the customer to obtain the ordered product.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the tracking system is configured for tracking food products ordered by the customer.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one separate package is provided for packing the product ordered by the customer.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the package is sealed to prevent exposure of the product to contamination.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the tracking system is configured to record information indicating location of the package until the customer receives the ordered product, to prevent the package from being placed in an unauthorized location.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the tracking system comprises a misplacement alarm mechanism for indicating that the package is located outside of a predetermined route from a package packing location to a destination location requested by the customer.

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8. The system of claim 4, wherein the tracking system is configured to record information on every person handling the package to prevent unauthorized access to the package.

9. The system of claim 4, wherein the tracking system comprises a personnel verification mechanism for determining whether the package is being accessed by an authorized person.

10. The system of claim 4, wherein the tracking system comprises an unauthorized access alarm mechanism for indicating that an unauthorized person has access to the package.

11. The system of claim 4, wherein the purchase order is transferred to a storage facility for preparing the package with the ordered product.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein an ID information on the package prepared on the storage facility is entered into the tracking system.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the ID information on the package identifies a destination for delivery of the package.

14. The system of claim 11, the tracking system is configured to maintain a package address data stream indicating changes in location of the package formed in the storage facility until the packet is received by the customer.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein the storage facility is provided with a security mechanism for preventing unauthorized access to the storage facility.

16. The system of claim 11, wherein the tracking system is configured for recording transportation information for the package to identify a transportation unit for delivery of the package to a destination requested by the customer.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the tracking system comprises a transportation verification mechanism for determining whether the package is being delivered by an authorized transportation unit.

18. The system of claim 16, further comprising a security mechanism for preventing unauthorized access to the transportation unit.

19. The system of claim 4, wherein the package is delivered to a retail facility for enabling the customer to receive the ordered product.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the retail facility is provided with an access control system for controlling access to the retail facility.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the access control system is configured to identify customers entering the retail facility.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the retail facility includes multiple purchase pick-up points for enabling the customers to receive and inspect ordered products.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the access control system is configured to enable the customer to access the retail facility only after a purchase pick-up point is assigned to the customer.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein the retail facility has a storage area for temporary storage of the package delivered by the transportation unit until the customer arrives to pick up the ordered product.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the storage area is provided with a security mechanism for preventing unauthorized access to the storage area.

26. The system of claim 24, wherein the tracking system is configured for recording information indicating that the package is placed in the storage area.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the tracking system is configured for recording information indicating that the package is delivered to a purchase pick-up point assigned to the customer that ordered the product contained in the package.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein address information of the package in the tracking system is updated when the package is placed on a storage cart for delivery the package from the storage area to the assigned purchase pick-up point.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the address information of the package in the tracking system is updated when the package is removed from the storage cart and placed at the assigned pick-up point.

30. The system of claim 22, wherein the retail facility is provided with a video monitoring system comprising a plurality of video cameras for producing video data relating to handling the package.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the tracking system comprises video synchronizing system for synchronizing package tracking data recorded by the tracking system with the video data produced by the video monitoring system.

32. The system of claim 31, wherein the video synchronizing system is configured to create association between the package tracking data recorded during a particular time frame and the video data recorded during that time frame.

33. The system of claim 31, wherein the video synchronizing system is configured to create association between location of a video camera that produces the video data and location of the package identified by the package tracking data recorded by the tracking system.

34. The system of claim 31, wherein a video camera is assigned to each purchase pick-up point.

35. The system of claim 34, wherein the video synchronizing system is configured to provide association between the package tracking data relating to the package delivered to a purchase pick-up point assigned to the customer that ordered the product contained in the package, and the video data produced by the
5 video camera assigned to that purchase pick-up point.

36. The system of claim 35, wherein the purchase pick-up point enables the customer to receive the package without leaving a vehicle.

37. A facility for selling goods, comprising:

a plurality of purchase obtaining points for enabling customers to purchase required products,

a plurality of monitoring devices for monitoring operations in connection
5 with handling the products, at least one of the monitoring devices being assigned to a purchase obtaining point of the plurality of the purchase obtaining points, and

a computer system for recording data for tracking products purchased at each of the purchase obtaining points, the computer system including a mechanism for creating association between the data recorded at a particular
10 purchase obtaining point and video information recorded by a monitoring device assigned to that purchase obtaining point.

38. The facility of claim 37, wherein the computer system further including a mechanism for creating association between the data recorded during a particular time frame and video information obtained by the monitoring device during that time frame.

39. The facility of claim 37, wherein the required products are pre-ordered in advance.

40. The facility of claim 37, wherein each of the purchase obtaining points includes a section for inspecting the pre-ordered products delivered to the section.

41. The facility of claim 37, wherein the products include food products.

42. The facility of claim 37, further comprises an access control system for controlling access of the customers to the facility.

43. The facility of claim 42, wherein the access control system is configured to enable a customer to access the facility only after a purchase obtaining point is assigned to the customer.

44. The facility of claim 43, wherein a product ordered by the customer is delivered to the purchase obtaining point assigned to the customer.

45. The facility of claim 37, further comprising an area for storing delivered products.

46. The facility of claim 45, wherein at least one of the monitoring devices is assigned to the area for storing delivered products to record video information in connection with handling the delivered products in the area for storing delivered products.

47. The facility of claim 46, wherein the computer system is configured for recording position data indicating location of each package of the delivered products in the area for storing delivered products.

48. The facility of claim 47, wherein the computer system includes a mechanism for creating association between the position data relating to packages located in the area for storing delivered products and the video information produced by the monitoring device assigned to the area for storing
5 delivered products.

49. A computer-implemented method of selling goods comprising the steps of:

- enabling a customer to order a product in advance,
- forming a package including the ordered product, and
- 5 tracking the package until the product is received by the customer to prevent unauthorized access to the product.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the product is received at a retail facility.

51. The method of claim 50, including the step of identifying a customer arriving at the retail facility to pick up the ordered product.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the retail facility comprises multiple purchase pick-up points.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the customer is allowed to access the retail facility only when a particular purchase pick-up point is assigned to the customer.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the product ordered by the customer is transferred to the purchase pick-up point assigned to the customer.

55. A computer-implemented method of selling goods comprising the steps of:

- providing multiple purchase pick-up points for enabling customers to receive the goods,
- 5 recording information identifying the goods to be received by the customers,
- monitoring the purchase pick-up points to record video data, and

providing association between the recorded information on a product received at a purchase pick-up point, and the video data relating to that purchase
10 pick-up point.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein a customer is assigned to a purchase pick up point.

57. The method of claim 56, wherein a product ordered by the customer is delivered to the purchase pick-up point assigned to that customer.